

CLAIMS

Claims 1 through 22 are cancelled.

23. (Previously presented) A method for assessing endothelial function, comprising:
- a) recording patient's temperature at location distal to a selected site of creating an arterial occlusion;
 - b) compressing for a given period of time the patient's artery to impede distal blood flow and thereby creating a vasodilating stimulant;
 - c) removing the compression and thereby allowing blood flow to resume;
 - d) continuously recording the patient's temperature distal to the site of arterial occlusion; and
 - e) assessing the patient's endothelial function based on said recorded changes in temperature.
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein providing a vasodilating stimulant comprises occluding blood flow.
25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the patient's artery is the brachial artery.
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said temperature recording further comprises monitoring a change in temperature at one of the patient's fingertips distal to the arterial occlusion.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the vasodilating stimulant comprises occluding blood flow in the patient's arm.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the compression of the patient's artery is located in an extremity of at least one of (i) a leg, (ii) an arm, (iii) a wrist, or (iv) a finger.
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said monitoring occurs from a time prior to the beginning of said compression until a time after said ceasing when said blood temperature has stabilized.